

OREGON CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
NATIVE FISH COMMITTEE
2023 NONGAME NATIVE FISH WORKSHOP FEATURING
THE GOOSE LAKE ENDEMIC FISHES
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

James Capurso, Native Fish Committee Chair

On September 12-13, 25 fisheries biologists gathered in Lakeview, Oregon for the ninth annual Nongame Native Fish Workshop presented by the Native Fish Committee of the Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society. Each year, the committee hosts a workshop featuring nongame native fish species within the State of Oregon. This year, the workshop featured the endemic fish species of Goose Lake, including the Goose Lake Tui chub, sucker, and lamprey.

This workshop was the highest attended workshop yet, with 25 participants from state and federal agencies, universities, and organizations. It started at noon on September 12 and ended at noon September 13. The first half day featured presentations in a conference room in the Fremont-Winema National Forest Headquarters. Forest Staff Officer and previous Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award recipient Jimmy Leal introduced the workshop participants to the Goose Lake area and resources. ODFW Assistant District Fish Bio Justin Miles provided an overview of the fisheries resources in the Goose Lake Basin. OSU Masters student Aleah Dew described community dynamics of the native and nonnative fish in the basin. Although OSU Masters student Jacob Dickey couldn't attend, we saw a video of him describing his production of a Goose Lake lamprey larvae distribution map and collaboration with UC Davis. Stewart Reid from Western Fishes presented a biogeographic perspective of Goose Lake fishes relative to neighboring basins. ODFW Fish Conservation and Permitting Specialist Michele Weaver presented the freshwater mussels of the Goose Lake area. Troy Brandt from River Design Group described geologic context, aquatic endemics, conservation strategies, and restoration in the area. The presentations concluded with Brandi Neider from the Goose Lake Umbrella Watershed Council introducing the group to human dimensions in the Goose Lake area. Later that evening, the Oregon Chapter provided dinner and campfire refreshments to the workshop participants. Most camped that evening at Drews Creek Campground, administratively reserved for the workshop by the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

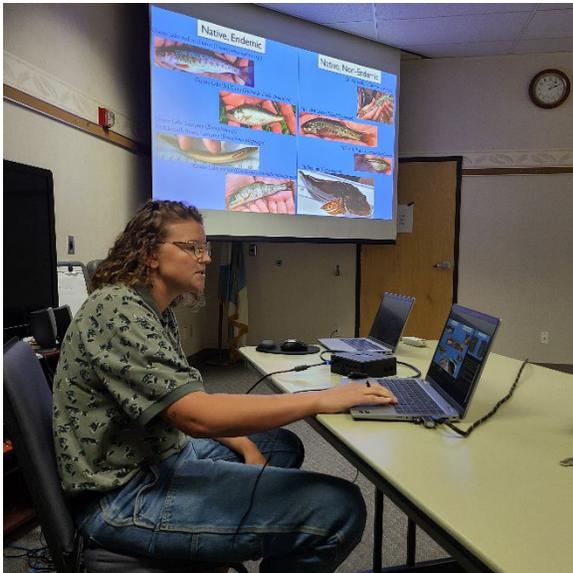
The next morning, we electrofished Hay Creek, within the Goose Lake Basin, under the leadership of Justin Miles and Aleah Dew. We collected Goose Lake Sucker, Pit Roach, Speckled Dace, and a California Floater mussel, all native to the area. We also collect nonnative Fathead Minnow and Brown Bullhead. The sampling location was bisected by a livestock fence, allowing us to sample reaches both impacted and undisturbed by livestock grazing. The grazed reach was adjacent to a cattle collection corral, potentially exacerbating livestock impacts. We observed a healthier riparian area shading a narrower, deeper stream with a higher density of fish in the ungrazed reach. At the end of the workshop, the collected fish provided a great opportunity for photographs and further discussions regarding their biology and habitat needs.



Justin Miles (ODFW) provides an overview of the fisheries resources in the Goose Lake Basin.



Stewart Reid (Western Fishes) presents a biogeographic perspective of Goose Lake fishes relative to neighboring basins.



Aleah Dew (OSU) presents the endemic fish of Goose Lake Basin.



Michele Weaver (ODFW) presents the freshwater mussels of the Goose Lake area.



Troy Brandt (River Design Group) presents Goose Lake endemics, conservation strategies, and restoration.



Gathering around the campfire as the sun sets.



Brandi Neider (Goose Lake Umbrella Watershed Council) describes the human dimension of the Goose Lake Basin.



Justin Miles and Scott Turo have a serious fisheries conversation.



Fireside at Drews Creek Campground.



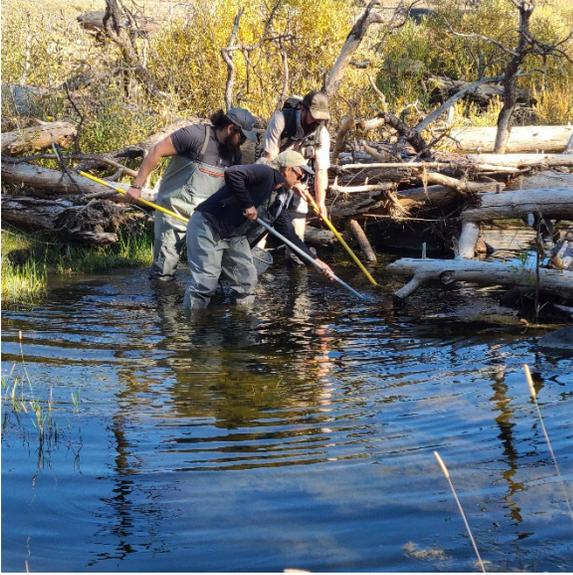
Justin Miles leads a morning safety session prior to field work.



Fireside gathering at Drews Creek Campground.



Praying Mantis collected at Hay Creek.



Electrofishing Hay Creek.



Electrofishing Hay Creek.



Electrofishing Hay Creek upstream of fence.



Checking nets during shocking.



Michele Weaver with sampled floater.



A sucker selfie.



California floater collected in Hay Creek.



The group sorting collected fish.



Goose Lake Sucker (Cowger Photo)



Goose Lake Sucker (Perkin Photo)



Brown Bullhead (Cowger Photo)



Pit Roach (top) and Speckled Dace (bottom)
(Perkin Photo)



California Floater



California Floater (Perkin Photo)